

October 2025

Dear Maranatha Family,

We welcome a new month and a new season. Fall is here — a season that reminds us of God's faithfulness in every change. As the leaves turn and the air becomes crisp, we are reminded that seasons come and go, but the steadfast love of the Lord never changes. October is a special month for our church family, filled with moments of gratitude, celebration, mission, and fellowship.

This month we also face a moment that is not easy for us. On Sunday, October 5, we will honor Pastor Bob and Judy Morton in a special retirement celebration. For so many years, they have faithfully poured themselves into ministry, shepherding with love and grace. We love them dearly, and while it is not easy to release them from active ministry, we rejoice in the seeds they have planted among us. After the service, there will be a fellowship reception. We invite everyone to bring a dessert or appetizer to share, and there will be a gift box in the foyer for cards, words of encouragement, or financial blessings. Let us come together as one body to express our deep appreciation for their faithful service.

October also brings our Fall Missions Convention, beginning Thursday, October 9, and continuing through Sunday, October 19. Missions is at the very heart of God, and these days will remind us of the call to lift our eyes to the nations. Several guest speakers will join us throughout the week, and on October 12 and 19, faith promises will be received. I encourage you to pray and seek the Lord about what He would have you commit by faith. Together, we can send the light of Christ further than we could ever imagine on our own.

Our senior adults will enjoy a special outing on Saturday, October 4, at Lake Katherine, followed by pizza fellowship at a local restaurant. These times of connection are a true gift, so please sign up in the foyer if you plan to attend.

On Sunday, October 19, the African Fellowship will gather at 4 PM for a time of worship and fellowship. It is always a vibrant and joyful celebration of the Lord's goodness, and we are grateful for this part of our family.

Our young adults ministry, Tapestry, continues to meet twice a month on Thursday evenings. God is raising up this generation to walk in faith, and these gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to grow and connect. Please check the bulletin for details.

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On Friday, October 31, we will host Light the Night in the north parking lot from 5 to 7 PM. This is a beautiful way to shine the light of Christ to our community. We will need volunteers to decorate their trunks (please, nothing scary) and to hand out fun, wholesome candy. Fire pits will also be set up for roasting s'mores. Please consider signing up to host a trunk and help us make this an evening filled with joy, light, and fellowship.

Finally, we are blessed to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Arabic Assemblies of God Fellowship, USA at Maranatha from October 1–3. We thank God for two decades of His faithfulness in this ministry. Pastors will be coming from various states to join in this special time. The first night, Wednesday, October 1st, will be open to the entire church as we gather for a one-hour prayer meeting from 7 pm to 8 pm. The following two days will be reserved for anniversary business sessions with the fellowship. We give thanks to the Lord for all He has done and look forward to what He will continue to do through this ministry.

Beloved, October is a month of both gratitude and anticipation — gratitude for the faithfulness we see in lives like Pastor Bob and Judy's, and anticipation for what God is preparing to do through our missions, fellowships, and ministries. Let us walk forward together in unity, with hearts open to the Spirit, ready to labor in the harvest fields.

*"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made."
Psalm 145:13*

With love and blessings,

Pastor Nader Kawar
Senior Pastor

P.S. The youth will have a Bake Sale on Sunday, October 26th. If you like to bake, please consider bringing a homemade baked-good or store bought dessert to donate to the bake sale. If you like to eat baked goods, come prepared to buy some tasty treats! All proceeds will go toward youth convention scholarships.